(c) whether India's Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at secondary level of 40 per cent is far behind the average GER of East Asian countries at 70 per cent; and

(d) whether countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh with lower per capita incomes, have higher GER rates?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has *inter alia* mentioned that the focus of public investment in India over the last 15 years has been on primary education, and that secondary education is highly inequitable across the States and requires more attention.

(b) The World Bank report cites instances of international research regarding the impact of secondary education suggesting that it is critical to breaking the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

(c) The World Bank report mentions that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40 percent is far below that of countries in East Asia (average 70 percent).

(c) The World Bank report states that countries like Vietnam with lower per capita income have higher GER, Bangladesh with a far lower per capita income has roughly the same GER at secondary level.

Setting up of off-shore campuses of universities

1778. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted private universities and deemed universities to open off-shore campuses whereas Government run State and Central Universities are not allowed to open their campuses abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will allow Government run State and Central Universities also to set up their campuses abroad as Indian universities face competition from foreign universities and encourage them to go abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed regulations, namely, the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, which, *inter alia*, provide that a private university can open off-shore campus(es) in foreign countries only after obtaining permissions from the Government of India and the host country. According to the UGC guidelines for considering proposals for declaring an institution as "deemed to be university" under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, it would be permissible for the "deemed to be university" to open academic Centre(s) in any of the foreign countries after obtaining due permission from Government of India and the host country.

According to the University Grants Commission, the following institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' have approved off-shore campuses:-

Sl. No.	Name of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be University'	Country
1.	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan	United Arab Emirates
2.	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Mesra, Ranchi	Oman, Bahrain
3.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and Oman.
4.	Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem, Tamil Nadu	Thailand
5.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai	Mauritius

(c) and (d) Public Universities and institutions may set up campuses abroad, if so permitted under the relevant State Act or Memorandum of Association, under which a university or institution is established. According to the existing provisions, a Central University is not allowed to open off-shore campus(es).

Revisiting educational system in schools

1779. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revisit the educational system in schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) A 'Round Table on School Education' has been constituted to advise and make recommendations on improving the school education system in the country and to suggest means of implementation thereof. Discussions in the Round Table are an on-going process for interactions on school education. So far three meetings of the Round Table have been held.

Grants to universities for research in science

†1780. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the grants given to universities for research in science during the last three years and grants proposed for the next five years, year-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.